

at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 117th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to agreeing to the unanimous consent agreements en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESOLUTION OVER, UNDER THE RULE—S. RES. 4

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for its immediate consideration, and to send the resolution over, under the rule, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The resolution will go over, under the rule.

The resolution (S. Res. 4) was agreed to as follows:

#### S. RES. 4

*Resolved*, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12:01 p.m. unless otherwise ordered.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT, 116TH CONGRESS

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2444. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4508. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled bills were signed on January 3, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. MCCONNELL).

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

#### MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 4. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; read the first time.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution establishing a Committee to Inform the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; submitted and read.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2021, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and authorizing the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 11. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; read the first time.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 11

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense in an appointment made on or after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person nominated after 12:01 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on January 20, 2021, and appointed as Secretary of Defense as described in subsection (a), and to no other person.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from

active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 12

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense in an appointment made on or after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person nominated after 12 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on January 20, 2021, and appointed as Secretary of Defense as described in subsection (a), and to no other person.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 1—ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 1

*Resolved*, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 2

*Resolved*, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 3—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 3

*Resolved*, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 4—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 4

*Resolved*, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12:01 pm unless otherwise ordered.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2021, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 1

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, the 6th day of January 2021, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter "A"; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND EMANCIPATION HALL OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AND CEREMONIES CONDUCTED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 2

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*,

**SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE.**

Effective from January 3, 2021, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 (116th Congress), agreed to June 26, 2020, to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, is continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

**SEC. 2. USE OF CAPITOL.**

The rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol are authorized to be used on January 10, 2021, January 17, 2021, and January 20, 2021 by the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 (116th Congress), agreed to June 26, 2020, in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate majority leader is recognized.

## MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 11

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 11) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection has been heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would just state to everyone that we are about to go out of session so there will be plenty of time for congratulations.